

July 31, 1973

Dr. Gus Nossal
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Victoria 3050, Australia

Dear Gus,

Thank you for your letter of July 25th. Unfortunately, Marguerite did not make it to Geneva. There were some problems about hotel accommodations that made me encourage her to put off coming over and I met her in Paris on Saturday.

I certainly sympathize with your activist's spirit in trying to give the maximum of support to the good research people already on the WHO staff. But I think we had better do all our homework and make sure that we are not intervening in a counter-productive way. These are matters that I think we might well discuss with Martin Kaplan perhaps during the meeting. It certainly would do no harm if you could come armed with the position paper that you mentioned.

I also would like to see us move ahead with the idea of not a symposium but a set of workshops at Cold Spring Harbor in order to bring together the problems of world health and the special training of people in modern cell biology and microbiology. The immediate problem is that of funding but there are some foundations that might be interested in supporting such a venture. Paradoxically, the World Health Organization has practically no money to do these things on its own initiative but it can help attract foundation support, and I am going to be discussing this with Martin Kaplan shortly.

About Zoecon, this company is listed on the Pacific Stock Exchange, and I am sure it must be rated among the better of the speculative issues that are available at the present time. However, you ought to be properly cautioned about the overall picture of the U.S. Stockmarket before you take that recommendation too seriously. I should have thought there were any number of Australian issues whose potentialities for solid growth would be more immediately known to you; and if you look at the returns on bonds and similar issues it is going to take some going for any stock to compete with the rates of return that they now enjoy. On the other hand, as you know almost anything that Carl Djerassi has touched has prospered both in financial and in substantive terms. So, I think you know enough to draw your own conclusions.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr